

STATE SENATOR • MICHAEL PRUSI • 38TH DISTRICT

Prusi Press Release

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PRUSI RESOLUTION SUPPORTING \$2 MILLION W.K. KELLOGG GRANT RECEIVES SENATE SUPPORT

Resolution supports efforts of Northern Economic Initiatives Corporation to strengthen entrepreneurship skills in the Upper Peninsula and Rural Michigan

LANSING – Resolution 285, sponsored by State Senator Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming), was passed by the Senate after being reported out of the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee today. Sen. Prusi's resolution expresses support of Northern Economic Initiatives Corporation's (NEIC) \$2 million grant application to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to promote Entrepreneurship Development Systems in Rural America. The committee chair, Senator Jason Allen (R-Traverse City) expressed his full support of the grant application and worked closely with Sen. Prusi in expediting the resolution through the Commerce and Labor Committee.

"The U.P. continues to promote economic growth," stated Senator Prusi. "Through our skilled labor force and creative entrepreneurs, we continue to build a national reputation as a place to develop and grow business. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the full Senate to express our support of continued efforts in the U.P. and Rural Michigan to strengthen local economies."

W.K. Kellogg Foundation recently issued a national request for proposals seeking to promote Entrepreneurship Development Systems in Rural America. If approved, the NEIC's grant application will be one of four nation-wide. The U.P. Entrepreneurship Development System will provide comprehensive in bringing entrepreneurship skills to students, adults, and business leaders in manufacturing, secondary wood processing, technology, and tourism industries.

"Northern Economic Initiatives Corporation's efforts in the U.P. can be transferred to other rural communities in Michigan," Senator Allen said. "It is encouraging that these grant dollars will make vital economic services available in Northern Lower Michigan."

(MORE)

Although NEIC is the lead applicant, other partners will include local schools, Northern Michigan University Center for Economic Education, Michigan Technological University Rural Entrepreneurship Through Action Learning, Small Business Development Center, Michigan Works! Job Force Board and Biz Resource Centers, and the Eastern U.P. nature Tourism Alliance.

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Mike Prusi serves as Democratic Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He represents the 38th Senate District, which includes all Upper Peninsula counties west of Luce County.